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January 16, 2020

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

Social media is an excellent tool for us to use in interacting with our constituents and the public in a way that is very accessible and widely used. However, issues with the use of social media platforms by political figures frequently arise and change practically every day. The Office of Legislative Legal Services continues to monitor the developing case law regarding social media platforms. At the moment, the nationwide trend appears to be that access limitation is a restriction on an individual's First Amendment rights. For us to continue to use social media platforms in an effective way, the Office of Legislative Legal Services has provided each member with guidelines that all of us should follow when using any type of social media platform.

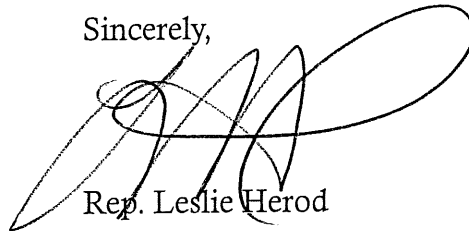
The Committee on Legal Services strongly encourages members to carefully study and discuss with your aides, interns, and other staff, the social media guidelines prepared by the Office of Legislative Legal Services. The aides and interns received training on this particular issue before the 2020 legislative session began. For your ease of use, we have attached another copy of the guidelines to this letter. It is imperative that each member checks his or her social media platform accounts on a regular basis to ensure that all guidelines are being followed and that no individuals are being blocked or otherwise restricted.

If a member is sued with respect to the management of his or her social media platforms and that member asks the Committee on Legal Services to hire legal representation on that member's behalf, please be advised that, since the hiring of counsel is in the discretion of the Committee on Legal Services, committee members will discuss the degree to which the member followed the social media guidelines. If

the member did not follow the guidelines, committee members will ask specifically why the member chose not to follow them.

Any questions regarding the social media guidelines may be directed to the Office of Legislative Legal Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned over the printed name.

Rep. Leslie Herod
Chair